United Nations A/HRC/25/NGO/164

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 March 2014

English only

Human Rights Council
Twenty-fifth session
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[18 February 2014]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.14-11691
1411691

Please recycle

Australia's Refugee Policy

Society for Threatened Peoples is deeply concerned about Australia's policy towards refugees. Though ninety percent of Australia's asylum seekers are found to be genuine refugees, the country tries to reduce boat arrivals through a new policy of "Operation Sovereign Borders" policy. Of the over 6,000 people in such immigration detention facilities offshore and in Australia, 345 have been detained between and one and two years. 900 Children are among the detained.

Experts have warned about the long-lasting health effects of a prolonged detention. Many of the asylum-seekers have fled traumatizing situations such as war and persecution. Their trauma is only made worse by a prolonged detention.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has criticized the conditions in which people were living after visits to Nauru and Manus Island detention centers.

Society for Threatened Peoples Society for Threatened Peoples therefore calls on the Human Rights Council to call on the Government of Australia to:

- Acknowledge the criticism by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and end its policy of a prolonged detention of asylum-seekers.